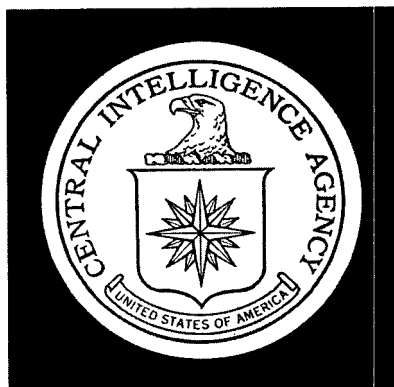


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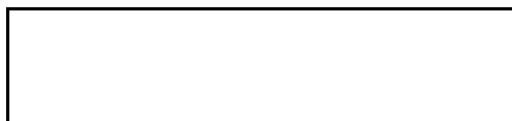
DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

State Department review completed

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Information as of 1600

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HIGHLIGHTS

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Heavy contact has been reported between two CIDG companies and an enemy force near War Zone "C" in Tay Ninh Province (Para. 1). The largest allied operation of the war--Operation ATTLEBORO--ended on 25 November (Para. 2). A five-hour battle on 24 November in coastal Binh Dinh Province resulted in 30 Communist soldiers killed (Para. 3). Twenty-three enemy troops were reported killed in a three-hour engagement between US Marines and Communist troops northwest of Quang Ngai city (Para. 4). Latest results of the Viet Cong ambush of a convoy near Da Lat on 24 November are reported as nine allied killed and 11 wounded (Paras. 5-6). The Viet Cong kidnapped over 100 persons from a New Life hamlet in the Mekong Delta near where a similar incident occurred several weeks ago (Para. 7). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 8).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam: The issue of military pressures for certain ambassadorial appointments continues to cause concern (Para. 1). Constituent Assembly chairman Phan Khac Suu believes that government leaders are willing to give up their veto power over the draft constitution and also to prolong the life of the assembly, but US Embassy officers are more skeptical (Para. 2).

VI. Other Major Aspects: There are increasing indications that Cambodia has been taking steps to limit Viet Cong use of Cambodian territory as a sanctuary (Paras. 1-7).

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics from 1963

Through 13-19 November 1966

- Weapons and Personnel Losses
- Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

To August 1966

- South Vietnamese Desertions

To 2 November 1966

- Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Returnees

South Vietnamese and Viet Cong Casualties
And Weapons Losses - 1962 to 31 Oct 1966:

- General Statistical Data
- Composite Annual Totals
- Viet Cong Incidents

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Two South Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) companies have been reported in heavy contact with an enemy force near Communist War Zone "C" in central Tay Ninh Province. The battle area is in deep jungle some ten miles northeast of Tay Ninh city. US artillery and tactical air strikes have been supporting the irregulars and US troops are preparing to send reinforcements into the fight. Only light casualties have been reported thus far in the action.

US Operations

2. Operation ATTLEBORO in Tay Ninh Province, which at one time included 17 US and two South Vietnamese battalions and was the largest allied sweep of the war, ended on 25 November. Total casualties for this six-week-long operation are 111 Americans killed and 416 wounded compared to 1,089 Viet Cong killed and 44 captured. Enemy losses included large amounts of foodstuffs, arms and ammunition; many enemy base camps were also destroyed. A total of 176 B-52 strikes and 1,560 tactical air strikes supported this operation. (See Section VI for Cambodian reaction to Operation ATTLEBORO.)

3. Two companies of the US 1st Air Cavalry Division participating in Operation THAYER II reported killing 30 Communist soldiers during a five-hour battle on 24 November in the rugged coastal area of Binh Dinh Province approximately 46 miles north-northeast of Qui Nhon. American casualties in this action were nine killed and 21 wounded. Two US reconnaissance helicopters were shot down by enemy ground fire. A total of 378 enemy troops have been killed since this four-battalion search-and-destroy operation began on 24 October.

4. The US Marine battalion conducting Operation RIO BLANCO in coastal Quang Ngai Province established contact with an estimated 100 Viet Cong early on 25 November about 17 miles northwest of Quang Ngai city. In a three-hour engagement, two Americans were killed and 23 wounded compared to 23 enemy soldiers killed and five captured.

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Da Lat Ambush

5. The latest report of casualties resulting from the ambush of a ten-truck US civilian/military convoy six miles southeast of Da Lat in Tuyen Duc Province on 24 November shows nine killed (one US military, one US civilian, and seven foreign national civilians). Eleven others were reported wounded (six US military, one US civilian, and four foreign nationals.)

6. The daily convoy, which transports civilian technicians to a communications site under construction near Da Lat, was traveling along Route 11 which is normally free from Viet Cong harassment. Three vehicles were destroyed and five damaged. A reaction force dispatched from Da Lat hit a mine and also received small arms fire, but forced the enemy to withdraw. The reaction force sustained no casualties; Viet Cong casualties are not known.

7. A Viet Cong force of unknown size entered the Din Cu New Life hamlet 24 miles southeast of Phu Vinh in the Mekong Delta province of Vinh Binh on 24 November. The guerrillas burned 15 houses and kidnaped 109 civilians. The captives were reported to be refugees from a nearby Viet Cong-controlled area. The village had a total population of nearly 500. A South Vietnamese Regional Force company has been dispatched to the village, but there have been no reports of contact with the enemy. This village is in the same area where the Viet Cong captured 107 civilians from another village several weeks ago.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

8. The week of 13-19 November compared with 6-12 November:

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
6-12 Nov	21	0	1
13-19 Nov	31	0	0

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<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
6-12 Nov	1	459	36
13-19 Nov	2	358	32

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
6-12 Nov	20	18	140	694
13-19 Nov	38	16	226	701

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>6-12 Nov</u>	<u>13-19 Nov</u>	<u>6-12 Nov</u>	<u>13-19 Nov</u>
Killed	1,525	905	237	248
Wounded	-----	---	556	545
Missing/ Captured	<u>193</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>77</u>
TOTALS	1,718	1,054	859	870

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>6-12 Nov</u>	<u>13-19 Nov</u>	<u>6-12 Nov</u>	<u>13-19 Nov</u>
Killed	126	99	21	29
Wounded	810	747	45	73
Missing/ Captured	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	952	846	66	102

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III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>6-12 Nov</u>	<u>- 13-19 Nov</u>	<u>6-12 Nov</u>	<u>- 13-19 Nov</u>
Individual	315	Not	127	236
Crew-Served	<u>72</u>	Reported	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>
TOTALS	387		128	246

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Foreign Minister Tran Van Do has told US Embassy officials that he had a long talk with Premier Ky about military pressures on the Foreign Ministry. Do is uncertain if his arguments against such pressures were successful since several ambassadorial changes are still scheduled against Do's wishes. Bui Diem, one of Ky's close advisers, will probably be assigned as ambassador either to the United States or to Japan. Dinh Trinh Chinh, another adviser, is slated to become ambassador to Thailand. Generals Do Cao Tri and Tran Van Minh are slated for Tunisia and Senegal, respectively. There is also pressure to replace the current ambassador to Laos, but Do is still objecting, and this appointment is not yet settled.

2. Constituent Assembly chairman Phan Khac Suu believes that government leaders are willing to give up their present strong power to amend the assembly's version of the constitution, and to agree to prolong the life of the assembly after the promulgation of the constitution. Suu and 11 other assembly delegates met with Premier Ky and Chief of State Thieu to discuss these issues on 18 November. A formal government answer is expected, perhaps next week. US Embassy officers, however, feel that it is unlikely that the government will agree to all the changes that the assembly has requested.

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. There are increasing indications that Phnom Penh has been taking some steps to limit Viet Cong use of Cambodian territory for sanctuary during the course of Operation ATTLEBORO in Tay Ninh Province.

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5. One reflection of the Cambodian attitude, however, has been provided by a Cambodian soldier who was captured in Tay Ninh Province, a few miles from the border, on 19 November. He told US interrogators that he was part of a three-man team sent across the border to warn the Viet Cong that they

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would be fired on if they attempted to cross into Cambodia. He said that this policy has been in effect since mid-October.

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He also said that it was a common occurrence for small numbers of Viet Cong to take refuge in Cambodia during allied ground sweeps or air attacks along the border. He claimed that Cambodian troops engaged the Communists when they were encountered, but he doubted that more extensive measures would be taken to control the border since the Viet Cong re-entered South Vietnam when the danger was past.

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Border Incident on 22 November

7. Phnom Penh has issued a strong protest over an alleged South Vietnamese mortar attack against a Cambodian border post opposite Kien Tuong - Kien Phong provinces on 22 November. Cambodia claims that it lost five killed and five wounded in the "unprovoked" attack, and brought an International Control Commission team to the scene to inspect the damage. Sihanouk has at various times characterized these border incidents as "inevitable" by-products of the South Vietnam war, but, in more belligerent moments, he has ordered Cambodian reprisals.

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South Vietnamese and Viet Cong Casualties and
Weapons Losses: 1962 - 31 October 1966

1. General Statistical Data:

Time Period	Viet Cong Incidents	Killed in Action		Wounded in Action		Captured or Missing		Total Casualties		Weapons Losses	
		GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC
1962	1825	299	1294	475	212	116	390	890	1896	-	-
Jan 1963	927	453	1754	908	318	102	379	1463	2451	457	683
1964	1770	343	1223	913	-	555	240	1811	1463	917	532
1965	2206	904	2203	1938	-	471	565	3313	2768	1700	711
1966	3914	747	2648	1557	-	450	588	2754	3236	935	979
1962	1460	244	1205	300	316	124	353	668	1874	-	-
Feb 1963	788	379	1082	656	303	82	292	1117	1677	253	399
1964	2078	374	1055	916	-	303	289	1593	1344	708	471
1965	1982	880	1564	1840	-	1394	309	4114	1873	2454	620
1966	3100	1015	4727	2095	-	477	508	3587	5235	1076	1219
1962	1961	523	1456	737	551	140	523	1400	2530	-	-
Mar 1963	1282	410	1443	851	368	66	222	1327	2033	467	367
1964	2160	439	1456	1249	-	345	531	2033	1987	814	532
1965	2056	751	2022	1633	-	720	394	3104	2416	1442	698
1966	3670	938	5685	1961	-	466	604	3365	6289	1393	1632
1962	1933	387	1596	532	292	151	415	1070	2303	-	-
Apr 1963	1331	506	1660	878	256	96	388	1440	2304	797	468
1964	2284	594	1671	1584	-	398	245	2576	1916	990	424
1965	1860	591	1909	1650	-	232	529	2473	2438	757	973
1966	3235	573	2818	1522	-	121	483	2216	3301	594	829
1962	1825	390	1756	509	352	94	524	993	2632	-	-
May 1963	1208	435	1895	889	295	94	695	1418	2885	463	564
1964	2143	458	1135	987	-	202	242	1647	1377	723	281
1965	2263	1049	1975	2143	-	873	548	4065	2523	1701	831
1966	3566	661	4239	1454	-	196	652	2311	4891	493	1087
1962	1477	325	1666	613	413	77	441	1015	2520	-	-
Jun 1963	1311	389	1863	772	310	90	437	1251	2609	580	394
1964	2062	494	1005	1145	-	313	230	1952	1235	718	387
1965	2597	1211	2208	1920	-	1260	189	4391	2397	2387	793
1966	3359	860	4815	1800	-	183	752	2843	5567	735	3761
1962	1564	384	1544	686	424	212	542	1282	2510	-	-
Jul 1963	1368	529	1918	1071	372	306	387	1906	2677	663	374
1964	3045	900	1427	1812	-	510	219	3222	1646	1889	447
1965	2520	1160	2980	1591	-	540	580	3425	3560	1375	882
1966	2844	1592	5532	1800	-	196	444	3598	5976	744	1483

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Time Period		Viet Cong Incidents	Killed in Action		Wounded in Action		Captured or Missing		Total Casualties		Weapons Losses	
			GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC
Aug	1962	1642	377	2271	626	367	63	669	1066	3307	-	-
	1963	1349	411	1685	804	237	352	482	1567	2404	637	428
	1964	2580	721	1449	1612	-	478	282	2811	1731	1106	619
	1965	2498	808	3624	1945	-	287	606	3040	4230	705	1074
	1966	2401	722	5857	1491	-	209	924	2422	6781	654	1298
Sep	1962	1375	419	2218	646	365	59	446	1124	3029	-	-
	1963	1763	672	1982	1155	234	566	347	2393	2563	878	389
	1964	3091	819	1187	1759	-	737	230	3315	1417	1465	525
	1965	2473	655	3485	1724	-	266	838	2645	4323	778	838
	1966	2864	566	4447	1554	-	185	839	2305	5286	426	-
Oct	1962	1357	365	1967	619	286	64	373	1048	2626	-	-
	1963	1422	428	1520	989	244	398	236	1815	2000	753	330
	1964	2827	739	1617	1583	-	693	576	3015	2193	1510	482
	1965	3330	961	3874	2416	-	225	660	3602	4534	762	1013
	1966	2923	906	5665	2118	-	216	2438	3240	8103	851	-
Nov	1962	1311	410	1982	834	368	92	561	1336	2911	-	-
	1963	3182	664	2333	1554	373	665	252	2883	2958	1595	455
	1964	1982	574	1747	1404	-	410	570	2388	2317	1104	515
	1965	3638	1034	5516	2056	-	520	592	3610	6108	1126	2164
Dec	1962	1346	294	2203	618	289	78	463	990	2955	-	-
	1963	1921	389	1440	961	191	320	190	1670	1821	724	546
	1964	2504	1002	1813	2053	-	1092	503	4147	2316	2111	666
	1965	4106	1239	4076	2262	-	926	516	4427	4592	1728	1158

Composite Annual Totals

Time Period	VC Incidents	KIA		WIA		Captured or Missing		Total Casualties		Weapons Losses	
		GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC	GVN	VC
1962	19076	4417	21158	7195	4235	1270	5700	12882	31093	5195	4049*
1963	17852	5665	20575	11488	3501	3137	4307	20290	28383	8267	5397
1964	28526	7457	16785	17017	-	6036	4157	30510	20942	14055	5881
1965	31529	11243	35436	23118	-	7848	6326	42209	41762	16915	11755
**1966	31876	7848	46426	17190	-	2745	8210	27783	54636	7941	-

*Monthly data unavailable for 1962 Weapons Losses.

**Through 31 October 1966

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2. Viet Cong Incidents: 1962 - 31 October 1966

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Time Period	Viet Cong Incidents	A T T A C K S				Harassment & Terrorism	Sabotage	Propa- ganda	Anti- Aircraft
		Small- Scale	Co. Size	Bn. Size or Larger	Total				
1962	1825	528	21	0	549	839	180	257	-
Jan 1963	927	242	8	2	252	447	49	179	-
1964	1770	218	2	3	223	1244	129	174	-
1965	2206	57	5	1	63	1489	272	170	212
1966	3914	42	23	5	70	2490	312	299	743
1962	1460	480	20	0	500	613	137	210	-
Feb 1963	788	181	13	1	195	433	69	91	-
1964	2078	211	3	3	217	1389	210	271	-
1965	1982	73	6	3	82	1411	267	91	131
1966	3100	50	10	9	69	1829	201	172	829
1962	1961	561	27	0	588	660	290	423	-
Mar 1963	1282	333	11	0	344	653	131	154	-
1964	2160	198	4	1	203	1632	158	167	-
1965	2056	80	3	3	86	1476	240	90	164
1966	3670	32	10	10	52	2332	212	154	920
1962	1933	470	27	0	497	1024	220	192	-
Apr 1963	1331	371	9	3	383	688	105	155	-
1964	2284	211	6	3	220	1738	169	157	-
1965	1860	38	1	4	43	1407	149	96	165
1966	3235	61	7	9	77	2238	252	110	513
1962	1825	490	28	0	528	892	154	251	-
May 1963	1208	344	13	0	357	608	93	150	-
1964	2143	170	3	2	175	418	217	140	193
1965	2263	40	7	11	58	1558	365	115	170
1966	3566	37	9	7	53	2552	295	106	560
1962	1477	339	23	0	362	736	157	222	-
Jun 1963	1311	398	11	1	410	652	107	142	-
1964	2062	128	10	2	140	1390	176	162	194
1965	2597	62	1	6	69	1784	469	103	172
1966	3359	47	10	11	68	2382	211	110	588
1962	1564	437	10	1	448	735	158	223	-
Jul 1963	1368	398	8	1	407	698	80	183	-
1964	3045	166	12	7	185	2132	286	224	218
1965	2520	42	0	6	48	1706	400	154	212
1966	2844	91	0	0	91	1906	200	86	561

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Time Period	Viet Cong Incidents	A T T A C K S				Harassment & Terrorism	Sabotage	Propa-ganda	Anti-Aircraft
		Small-Scale	Co. Size	Bn. Size and Larger	Total				
1962	1564	437	10	1	448	735	158	223	-
Jul 1963	1368	398	8	1	407	698	80	183	-
1964	3045	166	12	7	185	2132	286	224	218
1965	2520	42	0	6	48	1706	400	154	212
1966	2844	91	0	0	91	1906	200	86	561
1962	1642	368	10	0	378	885	146	233	-
Aug 1963	1349	356	11	1	368	647	113	221	-
1964	2580	107	3	3	113	1775	315	173	204
1965	2498	38	9	5	52	1597	349	200	300
1966	2401	59	10	5	74	1752	113	87	385
1962	1375	382	9	0	391	624	178	182	-
Sep 1963	1763	483	17	3	503	889	164	207	-
1964	3091	110	4	4	118	1938	482	178	375
1965	2473	19	7	5	31	1530	278	185	449
1966	2864	86	6	0	86	1972	90	115	601
1962	1357	406	12	1	419	583	189	166	-
Oct 1963	1422	359	6	0	365	802	105	150	-
1964	2827	75	2	6	83	1790	480	197	277
1965	3330	24	8	12	44	1969	415	198	704
1966	2923	105	16	0	137	1749	103	81	869
1962	1311	411	7	3	421	614	144	132	-
Nov 1963	3182	631	11	3	645	1990	269	278	-
1964	1982	57	2	1	60	1391	247	109	175
1965	3638	26	16	10	52	2234	486	255	611
1962	1346	375	8	1	384	670	107	185	-
Dec 1963	1921	258	3	0	261	1298	111	251	-
1964	2504	81	9	6	96	1719	318	128	243
1965	4106	32	18	7	57	2572	442	317	718

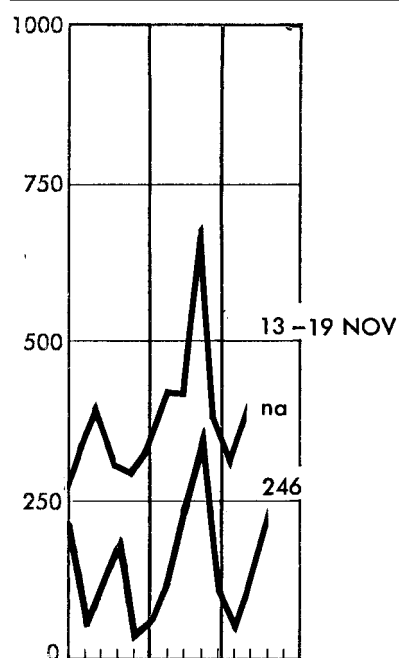
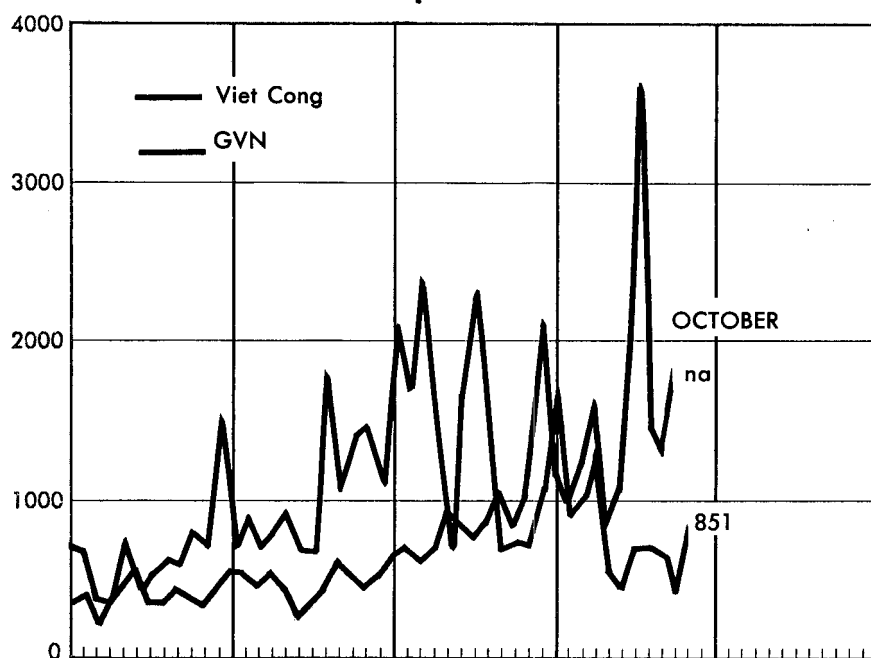
Composite Annual Totals

1962	19076	5247	212	6	5465	8875	2060	2676	No Data
1963	17852	4354	121	15	4490	9805	1396	2161	No Data
1964	28526	1732	60	41	1833	19556	3178	2080	1879
1965	31529	531	81	73	685	20730	4132	1974	4008
*1966	31876	610	83	74	767	21247	1989	1320	6569

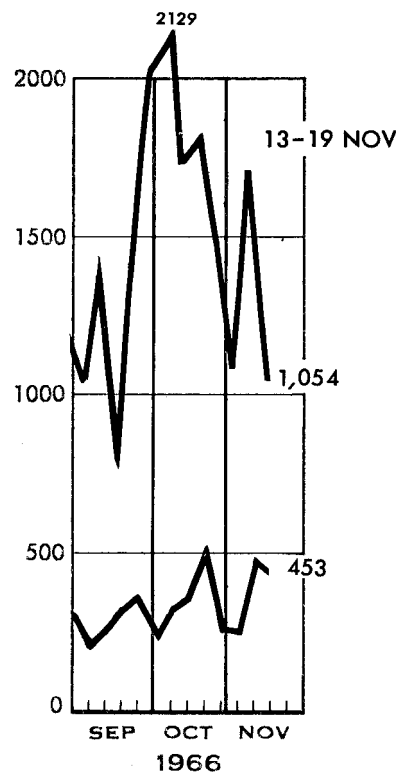
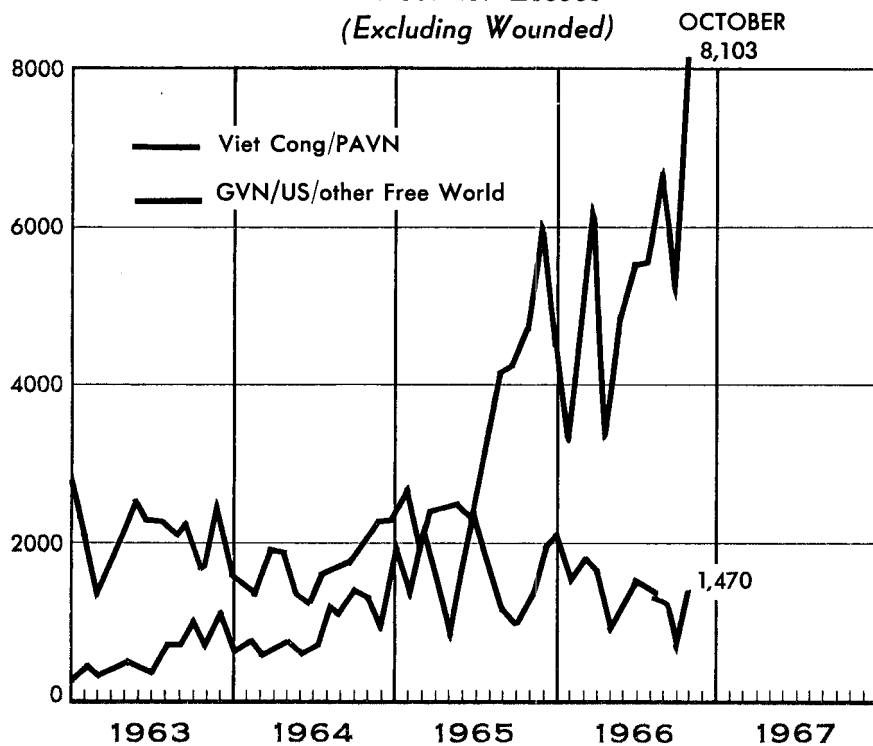
*Through 31 October 1966

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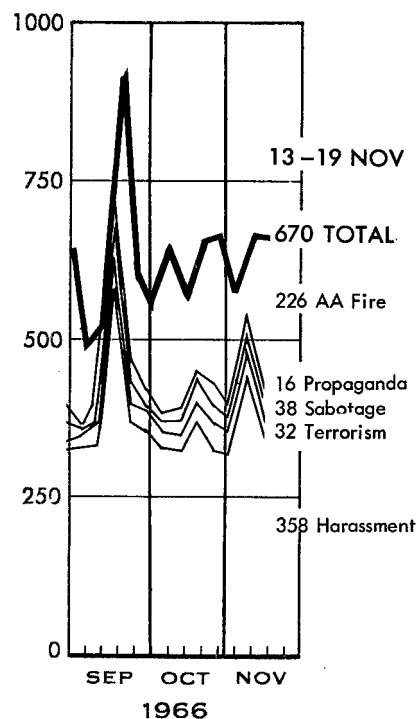
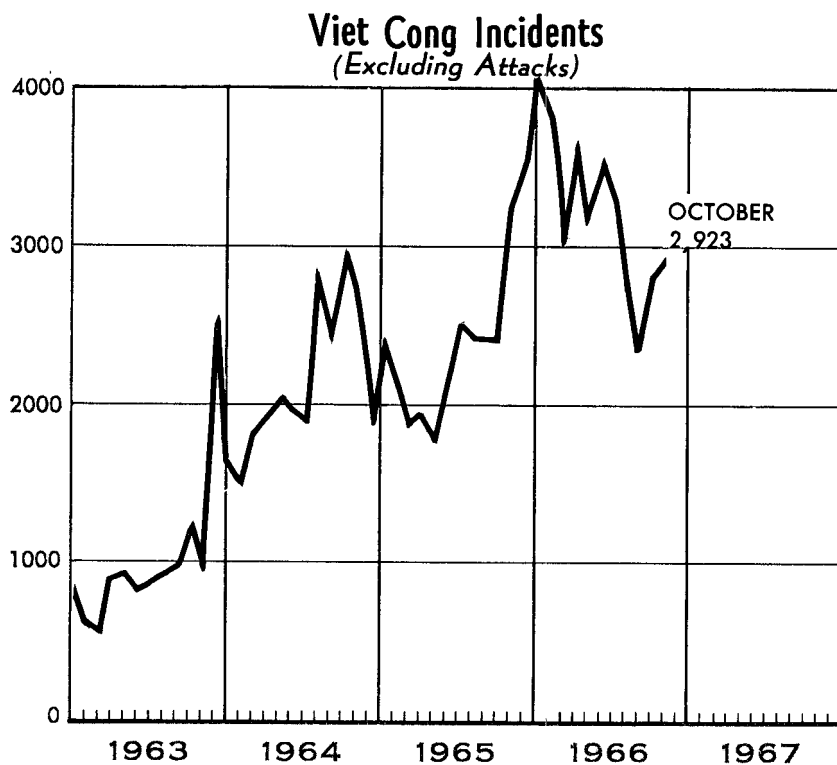
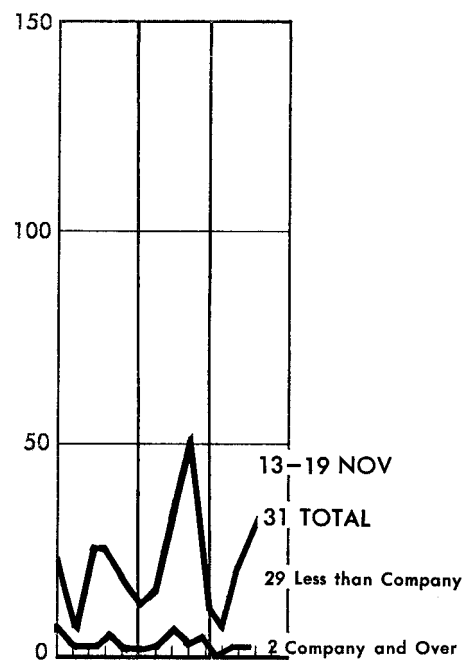
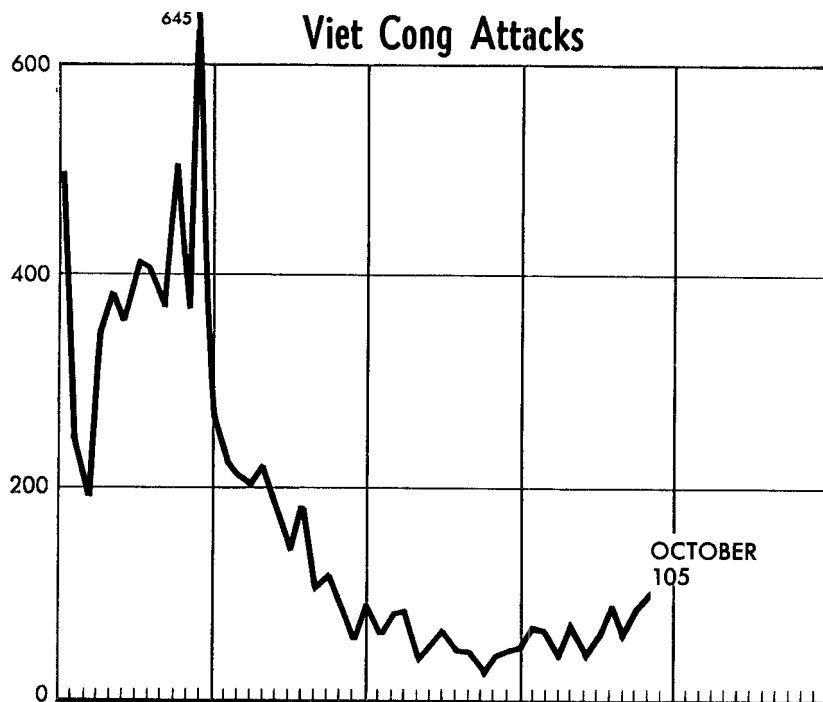
Weapons Losses



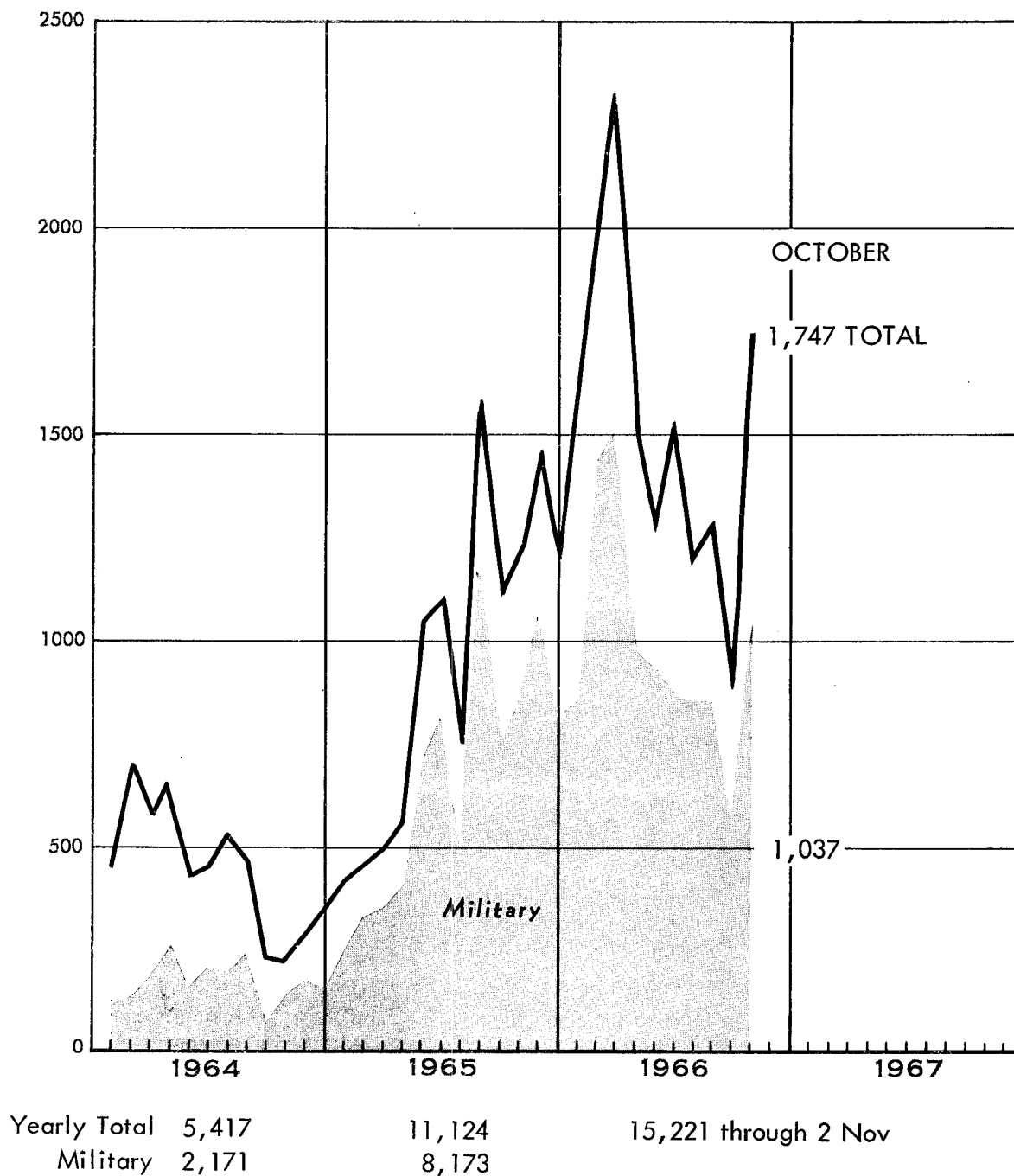
Personnel Losses (Excluding Wounded)



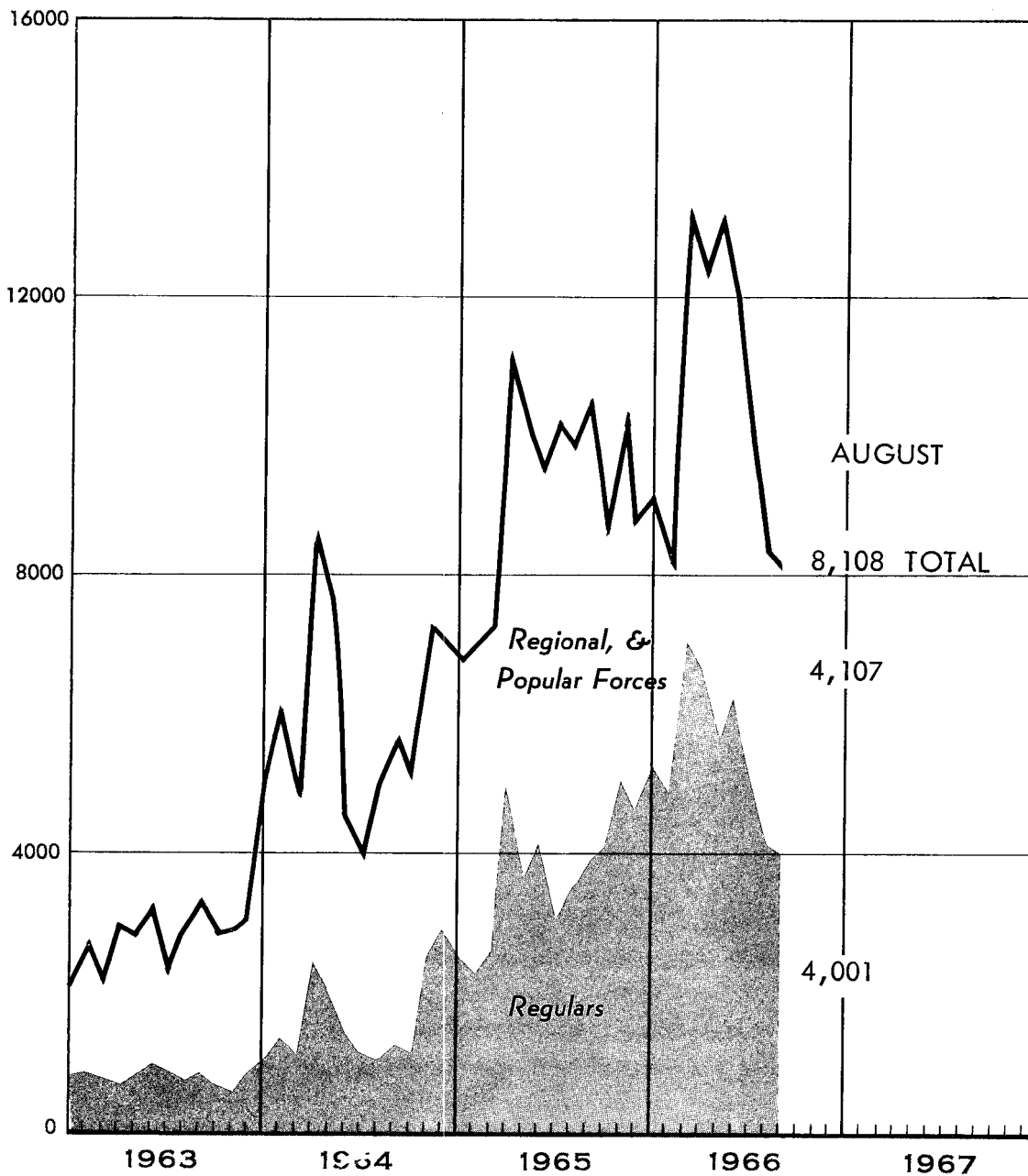
US Casualties to Date: Killed 5,965 Wounded 34,457 Captured 79 Missing 371



Chieu Hoi Returnees



South Vietnamese Desertions



Yearly Total	36,441	73,010	113,168	84,213
Regulars	9,666	21,441	47,279	43,401

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